



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

NCCIC

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NUMBER of CHILDREN in EARLY CARE and EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Determining the number of children in child care is complicated by the wide variety of out-of-home child care arrangements available to parents. Although some numerical data are available through publicly subsidized child care services, certain types of child care are largely unregulated and not included in research. Consequently, the total number of children in all types of child care arrangements in the United States has proven difficult to determine. The following selected sources offer estimates or averages of the number of children in child care or in specific types of care receiving government funding.

Children in Child Care Programs

■ “Table 1-1 Percentage of children ages 3–5 who were enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by child and family characteristics: Selected years 1991–2001,” in *The Conditions of Education 2002*, by the U.S. Department of Education, presents data from the National Household Surveys of Education Program (NHES) on children enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs. The following table provides data excerpted from “Table 1-1” on percentage of children enrolled in center-based care by age:

Percentage of U. S. Children Enrolled in Center-Based Care by Age						
	1991	1993	1995	1996	1999	2001
Children ages 3-5	52.8%	52.7%	55.1%	55.0%	59.7%	56.4%
Enrollment by Age (percent distribution)						
3 year olds	42.3%	40.4%	40.7%	42.1%	45.7%	43.0%
4 year olds	60.4%	62.2%	64.7%	63.2%	69.6%	66.2%
5 year olds	63.9%	65.7%	74.5%	72.8%	76.5%	72.8%

This resource is available on the Web at http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002025_App1.pdf. Additional information about data and publications based on the National Household Surveys Education Program (NHES) is available on the Web at <http://nces.ed.gov/nhes/>.

■ *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002* (July 2002), by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, presents 24 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives, including their economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education. The child care data in this report are based on the results from the National Household Education Surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and

the Survey of Income and program participation conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The report finds that an increasing number of children are spending substantial amounts of time in the care of a child care provider other than their parents. The report states:

In 2001, 61 percent of children from birth through age 6 (not yet in kindergarten) received some form of child care on a regular basis from persons other than their parents. This translates to approximately 12 million children and is about the same proportion of children in child care as in 1995. (page10)

This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.childstats.gov/ac2002/pdf/ac2002.pdf>.

■ “Detailed Tables (PPL-168)” in the *Who’s Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 1999* (January 2003), by Fertility & Family Statistics Branch, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, presents detailed tables of child care data from the 1996 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Panel conducted between April and July 1999. Data tables include information on: child care arrangements for preschoolers by family characteristics and by employment status of mother; child care arrangements for children in grade school by family characteristics and employment status of mother; family and child characteristics of children in self care; weekly child care payments; and weekly child care expenditures by employed mothers. A historical data table showing SIPP’s findings on the primary child care arrangements used by employed mothers of preschoolers is also available for all the surveys between 1985 and 1999. The following table provides a summary of the data on child care arrangements for 1995 and 1999:

Primary Child Care Arrangements Used by Employed Mothers of Preschoolers		
Type of arrangement	Fall 1995	Spring 1999
Total children under 5 years with employed mothers	10,047,000	10,587,000
Percent distribution	100.0%	100.0%
Parents	22.0%	21.5%
Relatives	21.4%	28.8%
Organized facility	25.1%	22.1%
Day care center	17.7%	17.9%
Nursery/preschool	5.9%	3.8%
Federal Head Start program	1.5%	0.4%
Other nonrelative care	28.5%	20.3%
In child’s home	4.9%	3.3%
In provider’s home	23.6%	16.9%
Family day care	15.7%	10.9%
Other nonrelative	7.9%	6.0%
Other arrangements	2.9%	7.3%

This resource is available on the Web at

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/child/ppl-168.html>. Additional reports and data based on the Survey of Income and Program Participation are available on the Web at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/childcare.html>.

■ *Primary Child Care Arrangements of Employed Parents: Findings from the 1999 National Survey of America's Families* (May 2002), by the Urban Institute, presents findings from the 1999 National Survey of America's Families about the primary child care arrangements used for children under the age of 13 while the adults most responsible for their care are employed. Child care arrangements are described separately for preschool children, 5-year-olds, and for school-age children. Changes between 1997 and 1999 are examined. Appendices include the following tables: (1) "Primary Child Care Arrangements of Preschool and School-Age Children with an Employed Parent in 1997 and 1999 by State" and (2) "School Attendance and Primary Out-of-School Child Care Arrangements for 5-Year-Old Children with an Employed Parent in 1999 by State". The report states that:

In 1999 nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of children under age 5 with employed parents were in an arrangement other than care by a parent. This statistic represents 8.7 million preschool children in child care arrangements.

The following table draws on data from this report:

Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children with an Employed Parent in 1999: All Income Levels (Percent Distribution)					
Children Under Age 5		Children Age 5		Children Ages 6-12	
Center-Based Care	28%	Center-Based Care	40%	Before/After School Program	15%
Family Child Care Provider	14%	Before/After School Program	8%	Family Child Care Provider	7%
Relative Care	27%	Family Child Care Provider	11%	Relative Care	23%
Nanny/Babysitter	4%	Relative Care	19%	Nanny/Babysitter	4%
Parent Care	27%	Nanny/Babysitter	3%	Parent Care/Other Care	41%
		Parent Care/Other Care	19%	Self-Care	10%

This resource is available on the Web at

<http://www.urban.org/Template.cfm?NavMenuID=24&template=/TaggedContent/ViewPublication.cfm&PublicationID=7763>. Additional reports and data based on the National Survey of America's Families are available on the Web at <http://www.urban.org/Content/Research/NewFederalism/NSAF/Overview/NSAFOverview.htm>.

■ The *Child Care Arrangements* document under the Child Care Arrangements topic in the Popular Topics section of NCCIC's Web site at <http://nccic.org/poptopics/ccarrange.html> provides a sample of resources with information on the characteristics of child care arrangements for young children.

Children Enrolled in School Based Early Education Programs

■ The Common Core of Data (CCD), a program of the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, is a comprehensive, annual, national statistical database of information concerning all public elementary and secondary schools (approximately 95,000) and school districts (approximately 17,000). This data series is currently available on the Web for all academic years between 1986-1987 and 2001-2002. Users can build tables for education funding, enrollment, school demographics, and teacher/staff information. This following table provides CCD data for public prekindergarten and kindergarten enrollment:

Public School Enrollment by Grade and Year			
Grade	1998-1999	2000-2001	2001-2002
Prekindergarten Students	751,175	776,064	866,969
Kindergarten Students	3,397,198	3,381,579	3,380,714

Data is available for individual States, county, Metropolitan Statistical Area, and school districts. This resource is available on the Web at <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/>.

■ Table "P36. Sex by School Enrollment by Level of School by Type of School for the Population 3 Years and Over," from the U.S. Decennial Census 2000, by the U.S. Census Bureau, presents data on school enrollment for population 3 years and over based on the results of Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3). The following table provides U.S. school enrollment data for nursery school, preschool, and kindergarten:

School Enrollment by Grade	
Grade	1999-2000
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool:	4,957,582
Public school	2,666,606
Private school	2,290,976
Enrolled in kindergarten:	4,157,491
Public school	3,536,045
Private school	621,446

This resource is available on the Web at

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=01000US&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&-lang=en&-mt_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P036&-format=&-CONTEXT=dt. Additional data from the U.S. Decennial Census 2000 is available on the Web at <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>.

Children Participating in Publicly Funded Early Childhood Programs

■ The Child Care and Development Fund Statistics (Last updated December 12, 2003) section of the Child Care Bureau Web site presents data from the ACF-800 and ACF-801 data collection forms for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The data available includes number of children served by type of care, payment method, reason of care, and age group, number of providers and methods of consumer education. The following table shows the data for average monthly number of children served by CCDF:

Average Monthly Number of Children Served by CCDF	
1998	1,514,541
1999	1,653,500
2000	1,747,800
2001	1,813,800

Data for fiscal years 1998 through 2001 is available on the Web at

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/index.htm>.

■ The Head Start Statistical Fact Sheets (Last updated April 29, 2004) section of the Head Start Bureau Web site presents data on the Head Start budget, enrollment, demographic and program figures. The following table shows the data for annual enrollment by age:

Head Start Enrollment						
	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Total Enrollment	822,316	826,016	857,664	905,235	912,345	909,608
Enrollment by Age (percent distribution)						
Number of 5 year olds and older	6%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Number of 4 year olds	59%	58%	56%	54%	52%	53%
Number of 3 year olds	31%	33%	33%	35%	36%	34%
Number under 3 years of age	4%	4%	6%	7%	7%	8%

Data for fiscal years 1998 through 2001 are available on the Web at <http://www2.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/factsheets.htm>.

■ *The State of Preschool: 2003 State Preschool Yearbook* (2003), by W. Steven Barnett, Kenneth B. Robin, Jason T. Hustedt, and Karen L. Schulman, published by the National Institute for Early Education (NIEER), provides information on State-funded prekindergarten programs. It is the first in an annual series reporting on programs funded by State governments to educate children at ages 3 and 4. The “National Overview” section of the report states:

In summary, state-funded prekindergarten programs in 38 states served approximately 700,000 children, almost all at the ages 3 and 4 in 2001-2002. The vast majority of children served by state prekindergarten programs were 4-year-olds, with 581,705, or 14.8 percent, of the nation’s 4’s enrolled. (page 16)

This resource is available on the Web at <http://nieer.org/yearbook/>.

■ The *National Organizations with Databases on State Efforts in Prekindergarten Initiatives* document under the School Readiness topic in the Popular Topic section of NCCIC’s Web site at <http://nccic.org/poptopics/nationalorg.html> provides a list of organizations that maintain databases with information about State-funded prekindergarten. The first section lists national organizations with data for all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The second section lists national organizations with information on prekindergarten initiatives in selected States.

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource.